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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/769,270 | 01/26/2001 | Seiji Shima | 520.39555X00 | 4351 |

20457 7590 01/29/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2172

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,270

Applicant(s)

SHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are pending in this office action. Claims 1-11 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the filing dated 1/26/01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose (US 6085199) in view of Knight et al. (US 6314460B1).

With respect to claims 1 and 4, Rose discloses a data management system for storages, suitable for having a host and a plurality of storages connected to a data transfer network, comprising: a converter facility for converting a block (unity) of semantically significant data specific to an operating system (OS) on said host into a unity of semantically significant data common to said data transfer network, (col. 2, lines 7-20 and col. 5, lines 27-41).

Rose does not clearly disclose, "A management facility for managing a readout of said unity of data from one of said storages upon reception of the unit name of said data from said host, said facility being provided apart from said host."

However, Knight a management facility for managing a readout of said unity of data from one of said storages upon reception of the unit name of said data from said host, said facility being provided apart from said host, (col. 18, lines 41-68).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the teaching Rose with the teaching of Knight because computer have become larger, faster, and more reliable, there has been a corresponding increase in need for storage capacity, speed and reliability of the storage devices.

As to claim 2, Rose further discloses a data management system according to claim 1, wherein: said unity of semantically significant data specific to said operating system is comprised of actual data section and a first control section for defining the type of data specific to said operating system, said converter facility considers the entire unity as said actual data to add to said unity of data specific to said operating system a second control section created for managing the type of data and for being common to said data transfer network, (col. 5, lines 27-41 and col. 2, lines 7-20).

As to claim 3, Knight further discloses a data management system according to claim 2, wherein: said data transfer network is a storage area network, (col. 5, lines 52-61).

As to claim 5, Rose further discloses a data management system according to claim 4, wherein: said files in said first format is comprised of actual data section and a first control section for defining the type of data specific to said operating system, said converter facility considers said entire files in said first format as said actual data to add

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to said files in said first format a second control section created for managing the type of data and for being common to said data transfer network, (col. 5, lines 27-43).

4. Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight et al. (US 6314460B1) in view of Rose (US 6085199).

With respect to claim 6, Knight discloses a data management system for storages suitable for a system having a plurality of storages and hosts connected to a data transfer network, comprising: a host for obtaining files from said storages, (col. 5, lines 66-col. 6, lines 13); a server for managing files present apart from said host, (col. 5, lines 66-col. 6, lines 13); wherein said server manages the transmission of said files on said storages to said host upon reception of access permission request from said host to said files under the name of said common format file, (col. 6, lines 66-col. 7, lines 68).

Knight does not clearly disclose, "A converter facility for converting files of a format specific to an operating system on said host into a generic format file having a format of significance common to said data transfer network."

However, Rose a converter facility for converting files of a format specific to an operating system on said host into a generic format file having a format of significance common to said data transfer network, (col. 5, lines 27-41 and col. 2, lines 7-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Knight with the teaching of

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Rose because the operating system coverts files spontaneously on request and provides a synthetic file in a desired one of plurality of possible formats while requiring the storage of only one native content file in server memory.

As to claim 7, Knight further discloses data management system for storages according to claim 6, further comprising: a storage for storing said common format files, (col. 15, lines 1-35) wherein: said server issues to said storage a staging request with a file operation ID added with respect to a file requested for said access permission, and send said file operation ID on condition that any error occurs, (col. 15, lines 1-35); said storage stages said file in accordance with said staging request and add said file operation ID to said file, (col. 15, lines 1-35); and said host obtains said file by issuing a file operation request to said storage with said file operation ID added, (col. 15, lines 1-35).

As to claim 8, Knight further discloses a data management system for storages, according to claim 7, wherein: said file operation ID is for use in the acknowledgment of access right of said host, (col. 15, lines 1-35).

With respect to claim 9, the subject matter of claim 9 are rejected in the analysis above in claim 6; therefore, claim 9 is also rejected for the same reasons as given in claim 6.

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As to claim 10, Knight further discloses a data management system for storages according to claim 8, wherein: said data transfer network comprises a plurality of fiber switches having hosts and/or storage devices connected thereto and a storage area network for connecting these components, (col. 5, lines 52-61).

As to claim 11, Rose further discloses a data management system for storages according to claim 9, wherein: said file in said file format specific to said operating system is comprised of actual data and a file control section for defining the file type thereof, (col. 5, lines 26-64); said file system considers said actual data plus said file control section as an actual data entirely to create another file control section common to said storage area network, said file in said file format specific to said operating system being converted to a file in said file format common to said storage area network by adding said another control section to said file in said file format specific to said operating system, (col. 5, lines 26-64).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shnelvar (US 6374266B1) shows method and apparatus for storing information in a data processing system.

Miller et al. (US 5745902) shows method and system for accessing a file using name having different file name formats.

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Contact Information

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

6. **Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.**

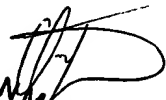
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

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01/15/03


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER